

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People are social being. They cannot live themselves. They need a help from the other people to face the problem because many problems exist and could make human surrender in life. Occasionally, human can solve their problem, but in certain way, they cannot. Each of human has strength and weakness inside of them. It influences their personality to interact with the other people.

Personality is a characteristic way of a person's moods, attitudes, opinions, motivations, style of thinking, perceiving, speaking and acting in interactions with other people. It includes behavioral characteristics both inherent and acquired, that distinguish one person from another and that can be observed in people's relations to environment and to the social group (Encyclopedia Britannica). Human usually acts in bad and good behaviors. Both acts will influence his or her personality. The good behaviors are reflected in *The Pursuit of Happyness*, a 2006 movie. It is acted by major character such as in his attitudes, style of thinking and motivation to change the bad life into better life.

The Pursuit of Happyness was directed by Gabriele Muccino, an Italian director. He was born in Rome on May 20, 1967. Muccino made four films in six years in Italy, but virtually none in America, despite signing a two picture deal with Miramax following the success of his

breakthrough film, *“The Last Kiss”* (2001). He began his film career as an assistant to Italian directors Pupi Avati (*“The Story of Boys and Girls”*) and Marco Risi (*“Steam: The Turkish Bath”*). After attending Rome’s Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, he worked as documentary and short filmmaker for Radio Audizioni Italiane, Italy’s public radio and television broadcaster. He soon directed his first feature, *“That’s It”* (*“Ecco Fatto”* 1998). Muccino’s directing debut earned him a spot in the 1998 Turun Film Festival where he received a nomination for Best Director.

For his next film, *“But Forever on My Mind”* (1999), Muccino returned to high school to tell the story of a teenage activist, Silvio and his preoccupation with a fellow student, Valentina (Giulia Carmignani), despite protests against privatization. The next film, *“The Last Kiss,”* that propelled Muccino into the international spotlight. His first foray into strictly dramatic territory, *“Last Kiss”* showed the director’s growing maturity through a group of twenty-something male friends grappling with the onset of their own adulthood. He also gained in *“Remember Me”, My Love* (2003). Ever since *“Last Kiss,”* Muccino had been trying to get work on American films, but to no avail. His deal with Miramax went nowhere and other projects simply failed to materialize. But when Will Smith saw and loved *“Last Kiss,”* Muccino was given the opportunity to direct the actor in *“The Pursuit of Happyness”* (2006), the true rags-to-riches story of a single dad who overcomes poverty and homelessness to

become a successful stockbroker. The next movies are *Seven Pounds* (2008) and *Kiss Me Again* (2010). (The Internet Movie Database)

Columbia Pictures released this movie on December 15, 2006 in United State. The movie runtime is 117 minutes, released in DVD distributed by Columbia Pictures on March 27, 2007 and as of November 2007, US Region 1 DVD sales accounted for an additional \$89,923,088 in revenue, slightly less than half of which was earned in its first week of release. About 5,570,577 units have been sold, bringing in \$90,582,602 in revenue. The film debuted at the North American box office, earning \$27 million. The film grossed \$162,586,036 in the US and Canada, nearly three times its production cost, and a further \$141,700,000 in other markets, for a total worldwide box office of \$304,286,031. (Wikipedia)

The Pursuit of Happyness is nominated for 13 Academy Awards and winning seven among them. It is ASCAP Award for category Top Box Office Film, Capri Award for category Movie of the Year in 2006, Image Award for category outstanding Motion Picture, MTV Movie Award for category Breakthrough Performance (Jaden Smith), NRJ Cine Award for category International Star of the Year (Will Smith), Phoenix Film Critics Society Award for Best Performance by a Youth in a Lead or Supporting Role-Male (Jaden Smith), and Teen Choice Award for categories Choice Movie Actor: Drama (Will Smith) and Choice Movie: Chemistry (Will Smith and Jaden Smith). (The Internet Movie Database)

This movie has some critical responses, the movie was generally positive by critics. Film review site Rotten Tomatoes calculated an 66% overall based on 166 reviews, and it scored an 66% Top Critics rating from major news outlets. In the San Francisco Chronicle, Mick Laselle observed, the great surprise of the picture is that it is not corny. The beauty of the film is honesty. In it is outlines, it is nothing like the usual success story depicted on screen, in which, after a reasonable interval of disappointment, success arrives wrapped in a ribbon and a bow. Manohlah Dargis of The New York Times called the film “a fairy tale in realist drag”, the kind of entertainment that goes down smoothly until it gets stuck in crawl. It is the same old bootstraps story, an American dream artfully told, skillfully sold, and other critical responses. (The ComingSoon Reviews)

The pursuit of Happyyness tells about strive of father to get happiness for his family, especially his son. In 1981, in San Francisco, Chris Gardner as salesman spends his money to buy an Osteo National bone density scanners. This machine gives a slightly denser picture than an x-ray and the price is more expensive than an x-ray. One day, this machine does not use in many hospitals because it is expensive. Chris must sell this machine for pay rent and daycare but Chris does not sell it. This financially breaks the family, bringing troubles to his relationship with his wife Linda, who leaves him and moves to New York where she has taken a job in a pizza parlor. Their son Christopher stays with Chris because he

and his wife both know that he will be able to take better care of him. Without any money or a wife, but committed to his son, Chris sees a chance to fight for a stockbroker internship position at Dean Witter, offering a more promising career at the end of a six-month unpaid training period.

During that period, Chris goes through a lot of hardship personally and professionally. When he thinks he is "stable," he finds that he has lost \$600 when the government takes the last bit of money in his bank account for taxes. He is rendered homeless because he cannot pay his rent. He is forced at one point to stay in a bathroom at a train station, and must scramble from work every day to the Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, which offers shelter to the homeless. He must leave work early every day so that he is there by 5:00 in the evening along with his son so that he may be assured of a place to sleep. He is seen carrying his suitcase to work because he does not have a home. At work, there are nineteen other candidates for the one position.

One day, he is called into an office and he meets the heads of the office, Dean Witter. Chris thinks that he is about to be told that the job will not be his as he says that he wears a shirt and tie for his final day. Then they tell him that he has been an excellent trainee and that tomorrow he will have to wear his shirt and tie again as it will be his first day as a broker. Chris struggles to hold back tears. Outside he begins to cry as the busy people of San Francisco walk past him. He rushes to his son's

daycare, hugs him and knows that after everything him and his son had been through things will be all right. This little part is called Happiness. After beginning his career at Dean Witter, Chris Gardner built the investment firm Gardner Rich in 1987 and Chris sells a minority stake in his brokerage firm in a multi-million dollar in 2006.

The writer discovered four reasons why the writer chooses *The Pursuit of Happyness* as the research. The first reason, *The Pursuit of Happyness* is inspiring stories. It can be seen from the phenomenon that happens in Chris Gardner's life with his family. Many phenomenons give the good effect to the audiences that can be learned in their life. For example, it is shown in this movie when Gardner is very difficult to get a job, without much money and a wife, he joins for a stockbroker internship position at Dean Witter. Although, he feels underrated and unappreciated in Dean Witter, he still continues his job training during six months. Finally, Chris becomes a stockbroker after getting difficult conditions with his son. This is called happiness. It is really an image of life which gives an inspiration for everybody that life has many problems, but it must be faced with strong striving to change the life into real happiness. The audiences can see a close relation between father with his little son. Gardner loves his little son very much, he does everything that can make his son happy. It gives a good image for parents to take care of their children. Parents can learn this condition from watching this movie.

The second reason is about the act of actors and actresses, especially the performance of Will Smith as Gardner and his little son (Jaden) as Christopher. They are successful to play the role. The audiences can enjoy about the life that Will Smith and Jaden play in this movie. It seems the audiences come into the act that the actors perform. Will Smith plays well in this movie, his performance really amazing, because it is natural. Every scene with his son is unique. The acting in this movie makes smiling, occasionally make crying like a baby. Will Smith has strong acting and Jaden is great too. The writer likes their act very much.

The third is the writer wants to know how Chris Gardner's personality to have a better life in this movie. The writer wants to know the problems that happen in this movie. It is very interesting to know about this, because people can learn about the personality of Chris Gardner and he never gives up to face the problems in life. This movie tells that if people work hard, they will succeed.

The last reason of *The Pursuit of Happyness* is the movie based on the true story about a man named Christopher Gardner. It makes the audiences really feel the phenomenon that is shown in this movie. It is a real life. Gabriele as a director makes this movie as a sweet drama family that shows about the sadness, happiness, and humor like real human experiences. This movie is life and gives motivation for all of human to try harder for real happiness.

Based on the backgrounds above, the writer proposes to conduct the research entitled **CHRIS GARDNER'S PERSONALITY TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE IN GABRIELE MUCCINO'S *THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS* MOVIE (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

The first study is about *The Pursuit of Happyness* conducted by Fitriyani Fajriyatun, University Muhammadiyah of Surakarta (2005), entitled Struggle of Chris Gardner to Get Happiness on *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie: An Individual Psychological Approach. The result shows that researcher describes how the struggle of major character to get happiness. She tells the message of this movie that is people must struggle to get better life. The individual psychological shows that weak feeling of some people when he or she is down can be a spirit and power to change his or her life to be better and it is called struggle.

The second writer is by Renny Herarsih, entitled Chris Gardner Motivation in Striving for his Happiness as seen in *The Pursuit Of Happyness* movie. This research discusses *The Pursuit of Happyness*, an American film. The objective of this study is to explain Chris Gardner motivation, and to find out Chris Gardner's obstructions in pursuing his happiness. This thesis uses some theories to conduct the analysis, such as theory of character and characterization, pop culture theory, theory of personality, theory of happiness, and theory of human motivation. From the analysis, it can be concluded that Chris Gardner's motivation is

explained through his motivation to fulfill five basic needs, those are biological and physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, self esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. Chris Gardner has faced some obstruction; those are lack of understanding from his wife, financial problem and his education background.

From the two literary reviews, the writer concludes that the similarity with her research is the object of study, and the differences between the previous writers are the perspective. Fitriyani Fajriyatun uses An Individual Psychological Approach and Renny Herarsih uses some theories. They are the theory of character and characterization, pop culture theory, theory of personality, theory of happiness, and theory of human motivation. The present writer uses Psychoanalytic Approach to analyze this study.

C. Problem Statement

Problem statement in this research is “How is Chris Gardner’s personality to have a better life reflected in *The Pursuit of Happyness* directed by Gabriele Muccino?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing Chris Gardner’s personality to have a better life in Gabriele Muccino’s *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie based on Psychoanalytic Approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Gabriele Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie based on the structural element of the movie.
2. To describe the Chris Gardner's personality to have a better life in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie based on psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give additional information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly to the study of Gabriel Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

2. Practical Benefit

To enrich the literary study of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities who have interest with literary study on the movie from Psychoanalytic Approach.

G. Research Method

In this research method, the writer divides it into five parts, they are:

1. Type of the Study

In the research paper the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method which focuses on the data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie directed by Gabriele Muccino.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of the data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

a. Primary Data

The primary data source of the study is *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie by Gabriele Muccino and the script written by Steven Conrad.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data source is from many sources as references, author's biography, criticisms in relation to the problems and material related to the study whether picking up from books or internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of the data collections are:

- a. Watching the movie for several times
- b. Reading the movie script
- c. Determining the characters
- d. Taking notes of important parts in both of primary and secondary data.
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.

- f. Taking notes from the material and some other sources related to the movie and analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and psychoanalytic approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “Chris Gardner’s Personality to Have a Better Life in Gabriele Muccino’s *The Pursuit of Happyness* Movie (2006): A Psychoanalytic Approach” consists of five chapters. Chapter I is Introductions, it consists of Background of Study, Previous Study, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method and the last is Research Paper Organization. *Chapter II* comprises of the underlying theory, which presents notion of psychoanalysis, the structure of personality, and theoretical application. *Chapter III* is structural analysis of the movie, which involves the structural element of character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, theme, and discussion. *Chapter IV* constitutes psychoanalytic analysis of the personality. The last is *Chapter V* contains of conclusion and suggestion.